

State Service-Learning Advisory Council Meeting
September 17, 2003
Jefferson City, Missouri

Welcome and Introductions: Chairperson Beth Nickle called the meeting to order at 10:12am.

Introduction of Alicia Riner: Beth introduced Alicia to the council as the new state coordinator. Alicia shared a little bit about her background, and prior work with DESE. Alicia's work hours are 7am-3:30pm, slightly different from what Karen's hours were.

Introduction of council members: The following council members were in attendance and offered introductions to the group:

Scott Miniea
Jan Schuster
Chris Damron
Stephanie Hill
Jessica Lenoir, Hickman Mills HS
Nicole Downs, Hickman Mills HS
Delores Stegner
Carol Schmook
Julia Vargas
Mel Schneider
Angela Martinez, Bailey Alternative

Brian Hayes, Bailey Alternative
Joan Davis
Donna Halsband
David Humphrey
Karen Pippin
Steve Henness
Beth Nickle
Maureen Cunningham
Suzanne Rothwell
Bonita Williams

Approval of May 7, 2003 Minutes: Council members reviewed the May 7 meeting minutes. Carol moved to approve the minutes and Mel seconded.

Report on State Farm Proposal: State Farm has adopted service-learning as its philanthropic priority for the next several years. The council is receiving \$10,000 from State Farm to support for activities proposed through Dec. 31. The amount proposed for next year is \$42,000. State Farm is moving from 25 regional offices to 10-15 offices. This transition has resulted in staff turnover, and some communication between the council and State Farm has fallen through the cracks. Donna participated in a Learn & Serve Exchange (LSE) call, and said LSE is also working with State Farm. Hopefully, groups will be able to go to neighborhood State Farm offices in the future to request support for service-learning. Scott explained LSE is a national training and technical assistance organization, which used to be part of CNCS. The activities proposed under next year's proposal include a service-learning summer camp, advisory council meetings, exec. committee planning retreat, and newsletter. Scott clarified that local agents may or may not have made a commitment to service-learning. However, Mel mentioned that all agents are required to be involved in community work. Steve encouraged council members to also consider what connections local agents may have that could strengthen their advisory groups and service-learning programs.

Suzanne Rothwell, a State Farm representative from the Columbia office, later joined the meeting to express her company's support for the council and service-learning.

State Service-Learning Conference: Alicia introduced a tentative conference program, and asked specifically for input from student council members. The Senior Corps conference was cancelled, so 60 members will be participating in the service-learning conference. Project STAR is coming as the technical assistance provider for CNCS, and will be presenting on how to set performance measures. Registrations at this point are low. Chris asked if the number of students schools could bring would be raised if registration doesn't go up. The goal is for the program to be on the web by the end of Friday. Alicia provided more of an overview of the conference. It is a conference for teachers, administrators, students, higher ed reps, etc. The council executive committee and committee chairs will meet Tuesday of the conference, 8-10 a.m. Grant coordinators will meet 10-11:20 a.m. the same day.

National Service-Learning Conference: Next spring the conference will be held in Orlando, March 28-31, 2004. It is sponsored by NYLC, partnering with the Florida Service Commission and the Florida Dept. of Education. Mattie will not be a conference coordinator this year. Beth is checking into whether Missouri can help as committee members, proposal reviewers, etc. The conference is a very student oriented event. There is a whole track of sessions, and entertainment specifically for youth. Brian M.C.ed at the last conference and gave three speeches in front of whole crowd. He said it was a very enjoyable experience. Student council members worked with the youth room, games and activities for youth participants. Angela and others gave a presentation. They also played games and introduced their school. Jessica and Nicole recruited conference participants in the hallway to come to their session. Sept. 30 is the deadline for session proposals. Scott was a proposal reviewer last year, and said it took a couple hours, but was a great way to see what's happening in advance.

National Community Service Conference: The National Community Service Conference is coming to Kansas City, June 7-9, 2004. The conference is sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation. Beth is trying to reach Bob Goodwin at Points of Light about how the council can lend support to the conference organizing committee. She will have more information at the next meeting. This is the national volunteer center conference, but involves all the streams of service, and many corporate partners. It is similar in size and scope to the National Service-Learning Conference.

Report from Exec. Committee/Chair Retreat: The exec. committee met in August, did some planning for the council next year, and set some goals for committees. A more formal report will be given at the November meeting. The group will meet briefly at the conference to work on report.

Tasks for Affinity Groups: Beth and Alicia asked council members in their various affinity groups (K-12, Higher Ed, CBO, Youth, etc.) to look over the conference program and to discuss each group's involvement in the conference. For instance, the K-12 group was asked to look at the conference workshop grid and talk about decorations schools can bring. The Higher Ed group was to identify the needs of higher ed participants, and ways the conference could be better marketed to the higher ed community next year.

Higher Ed: Campus Compact decided after last year's conference that trying to meet during the conference distracted from conference, so they will be meeting at a different

date. Some group members felt marketing the conference to faculty would not work, since most have limited time and travel funds. One strategy might be sending students who assist with coordinating campus service-learning programs. David is bringing four VISTA volunteers. The group discussed how to facilitate networking between higher ed participants, and how to make the conference more attractive. One suggestion was to find ways to market the conference to teacher education programs, via MACTE. Offer travel scholarships. Build an event within the conference event that includes higher ed. Steve suggested that the council should connect with a UMKC Center for the City representative. Bonita knows LU has an Office for Service-Learning in their College of Education.

CBO: The group came up with a "Tea at Three" idea: having administrators and teachers come to a room for networking. Jan will do "Turning Community Service into Service-Learning," in a game-based format. What it means to be a community partner is a topic this group needs. The group suggested some changes to the grid.

K-12: The group recommended identifying a suggested set of sessions for teachers to go to. They also recommended doing the Youth Yak session again. The group talked through shuffling several session time changes to streamline the program. There will be one Service-Learning 101 session per day.

Youth: The group looked at the schedule to see where there were workshops that might be interesting to youth. They are planning on games after dinner on Tuesday (Jeopardy with different teams). Brian gave examples of games planned, such as surprises and disguises, and blind leading the blind.

Committee Work - Tasks and Timelines: council members broke out into committees, held meetings, and then reported out on their progress to the group:

Youth Empowerment: the committee's big project this year is a service-learning camp, June 17-19. Stephanie is calling camp locations and will have a site locked in around the Nov. meeting. The next step will be recruiting in early 2004. The committee may also start working on a Missouri Service-Learning Leader School program, since the national version has ended. Missouri Service Day could be used as a celebration event for this.

Partners: the committee is working to increase agency involvement in the conference. Council members are asked to make a list of agencies and organizations that you partner with, and send to Alicia.

Marketing: the committee brainstormed ways to get service-learning ideas and concepts out to others. One idea is to set a goal for each service-learning school to contact five other schools who do not have programs. Student presenters would be encouraged in reaching other students.

Advocacy: this committee's chairperson is still in question. The committee's purpose is to garner support for service-learning through state and national legislative action. Scott is taking suggestions for legislators who could introduce a service-learning bill. The

committee is trying to get something going this session by mid-November. Council members are encouraged to contact Senators Bond and Talent to hold the line on funding for the Learn and Serve America program. See the National Service Learning Partnership website, which has info about petitioning Congress to support service-learning, and add your name to the list of supporters. The council is encouraging individuals and groups to join up forces with the Partnership.

Alicia's Report: Alicia updated the council on Missouri Service-Learning for this year. There are 34 total grant sites. Four did not reapply. She is requesting a letter from Corporation, stating what they did not like about the competitive funds proposal, which was not approved. The proposal scored "above average" rankings, but apparently scored low in cost effectiveness (CNCS was not impressed with how the proposal directed resources to a center instead of directly to schools and communities). Make a Difference Day handouts were passed out. Council members are encouraged to register the groups they represent in participating in this national service day. Alicia is letting the grant sites know about the opportunity. The next council meeting will be Nov. 12, in the Governor's Hotel, Room 315. Alicia's email address and the website are changing to the following URL: <http://dese.mo.gov>.

Higher Ed Report: none.

Adjournment: Beth Nickle called for adjournment at 2:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Henness